

March 17, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Brazos Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Re: Forbearance Notification

WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Brazos Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Brazos; SAC 442041) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*¹ from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.

Brazos is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that receives Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Texas. The Cooperative elects forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM. The Cooperative does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.²

1. *Carrier Name*: Brazos Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

2. *ETC Designation Information*

- a. *ETC Designation Order*: Public Utility Commission of Texas; General Counsel's Petition for Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Under 47 U.S.C. §214(e); Project No. 18100; Approving/Denying/Abating Applications for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier; Order No. 3; December 10, 1997.

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

- b. *Designating Authority*: Public Utility Commission of Texas
 - c. *Type of Designation*: High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)
 - d. *Date of ETC Designation*: December 10, 1997
3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance*: The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Brazos is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Cooperative's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM.
4. *Date and Reason for Change*: Brazos received its first A-CAM support payment on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Cooperative no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband*: Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Brazos is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Cooperative still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 940-564-7341 or tscobee@brazostel.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Ted Scobee
Asst. Manager